

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 AID-20 OPR-02

/155 W

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R 162330Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2924

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SANSALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4518

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: OFFENSIVE AGAINST CHAMORRO-SACASA GROUP CONTINUES

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1. THE SOMOZA-OWNED NOVEDADES CONTINUED ITS ALL OUT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CHAMORRO-SACASA GROUP (REFTEL) AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT IT HAS ORGANIZED. IN ITS EDITION OF NOVEMBER 15 NOVEDADES CHARGES THAT THIS MOVEMENT IS DIRECTLY LINKED WITH THE SHIPMENT OF CONTRABAND ARMS RECENTLY SEIZED IN CALIFORNIA IN THE POSSESSION OF A GROUP OF NICARAGUANS AND WITH REPORTED ATTEMPTS TO SMUGGLE ARMS FROM COSTA RICA. THE NEWSPAPER ALSO ALLEGES THAT EDMUNDO CHAMORRO RAPPACCIOLI, A WELL KNOWN MEMBER OF THE RADICAL ELEVENTH OF NOVEMBER MOVEMENT, DEPARTED NICARAGUA SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO COORDINATE ARMS ACQUISITIONS FOR THE SACASA-CHAMORRO MOVEMENT AND IS CURRENTLY IN EL SALVADOR.

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(NOTE: THE STORY OF EDMUNDO CHAMORRO'S PURPORTED ARMS BUYING

TRIP HAS BEEN MAKING THE ROUNDS FOR SOME WEEKS. HE IS REPORTEDLY HELD UP IN EL SALVADOR BECAUSE THE GON HAS REVOKED HIS VISA FOR REENTRY TO NICARAGUA. END NOTE).

2. WHILE BROADLY CONDEMNING THE SACASA-CHAMORRO GROUP, AND EVEN ADDING BANK ROBBERY AND ASSAULTS AGAINST PRIVATE PROPERTY TO ITS ALLEGED LIST OF PLANNED CRIMES, NOVEDADES SINGLES PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO OUT FOR SPECIAL VITUPERATION. IN EDITORIALS OF NOVEMBER 14 AND 15 IT CALLS HIM A "DISTURBER OF PUBLIC ORDER, SPONSOR OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AND FOUNDER OF SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS" AND LABELS HIM "PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE OF THE STABILITY OF THE STATE." IN LA PRENSA OF NOVEMBER 14, CHAMORRO CATEGORIZES THE NOVEDADES CAMPAIGN AS "SOMOCISTA BLACKMAIL" OF THE TYPE TRADITIONALLY EMPLOYED AGAINST "NATIONAL MOVEMENTS THAT TRULY UNITE THE OPPOSITION AND WHICH HAVE IN THEIR RANKS PEOPLE OF STANDING AND IMPORTANCE IN THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS POPULAR ELEMENTS." CHAMORRO AND SACASA PUBLICLY VOW THAT THEY WILL RESIST SUCH INTIMIDATION AT ALL COSTS.

3. HOPING THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MAY PROVE LESS RESISTANT, NOVEDADES CONTINUES TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR THEM. ITS BARRAGE OF ARTICLES NOVEMBER 15 PLAY HEAVILY ON THE THEME THAT SOME "HONORABLE AND SERIOUS PERSONS" HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY CHAMORRO AND SACASA AND ARE NOW CONCERNED ABOUT THE "PENAL CONSEQUENCES THEY MAY INCUR AS ACCOMPLICES OR ABETTORS OF A SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT." NOVEDADES RECALLS PAST PLOTS AGAINST THE SOMOZAS IN 1954, 1956, 1958, 1959, AND 1967 WHICH IT MAINTAINS SIMILARLY DECEIVED MANY INNOCENT PERSONS. ACCORDING TO NOVEDADES, MANY SUCH PERSONS NOW REALIZE THAT THEY ARE BEING DUPED AND ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO DESERT THE SACASA-CHAMORRO MOVEMENT, ALTHOUGH IT REFRAINS FROM NAMING ANY OF THEM.

4. COMMENT: THE NEWSPAPER WAR OVER SUBVERSION, WHICH IS ALSO WIDELY REPORTED ON RADIO, WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME: NOVEDADES IN FACT HAS PROMISED FURTHER INSTALLMENTS. IF THE CARROT AND STICK PRESSURE CONTINUES A FEW MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT WILL VERY LIKELY DESERT, THEREBY PROVIDING SOME GOOD GRIST FOR NOVEDADES PROPAGANDA MILL. AS THE PRIMARY TARGET, PUBLISHER CHAMORRO OBVIOUSLY RELISHES A SCRAP WHICH PLACES HIM IN THE POLITICAL LIMELIGHT AND OFFERS THE PROSPECT OF MARTYRDOM, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND HE IS THEREFORE NOT LIKELY TO ABANDON THE FIELD. WHILE OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN NOVEDADES' ATTACKS, AND PROBABLY WILL NOT BE IF THEY STEER CLEAR OF WHAT THE GON CONSIDERS TO BE SUBVERSION, THE CAMPAIGN IS OBVIOUSLY A WARNING TO THEM TO DO JUST THAT.
SHELTON

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